

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A tape cartridge including a cartridge case having a tape exit opening portion formed by connecting an upper shell and a lower shell, a tape reel rotatably housed in said cartridge case, and a leader block connected to one end of a tape wound around said tape reel;

said leader block having a block body, and a clamp member that is press-fit to a concave portion formed on a side surface portion of the block body and that nips the end of said tape with said block body;

said tape cartridge characterized in that:

said clamp member comprises:

a base portion that is press-fit to said concave portion to form a part of the side surface portion of said block body;

a pair of leg portions that are formed on inner surface sides of said base portion in the direction of the width of said tape; and

nail portions that are formed on outer surface sides of said pair of leg portions and that are secured to securing grooves formed in side walls of said concave portion, wherein

said concave portion is formed in all the height direction of said leader block, and a restriction portion is disposed on the side surface portion of said block body, the restriction portion restricting being fit to said clamp member to restrict upper and lower movements of said clamp member, and

wherein a guide portion is disposed at an opening portion of said concave portion, the guide portion being brought into contact with a side end portion of said tape to align said tape and said block body.

Claim 2 (Original): The tape cartridge as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the length of said pair of leg portions is larger than the width of said tape.

Claim 3 (Original): The tape cartridge as set forth in claim 1,
wherein concave grooves are formed on an inner surface side of said base portion in
all the elongation region of said pair of leg portions.

Claim 4 (Original): The tape cartridge as set forth in claim 1,
wherein a reinforcement rib is disposed on the inner surface side of said base portion.

Claim 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The tape cartridge as set forth in claim 1,
wherein said tape exits from a side of said leader block.